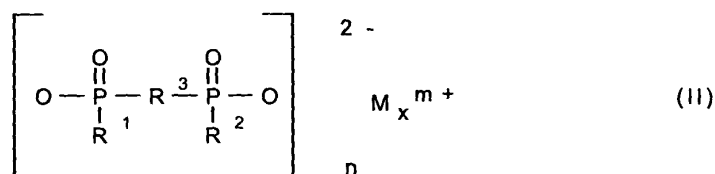
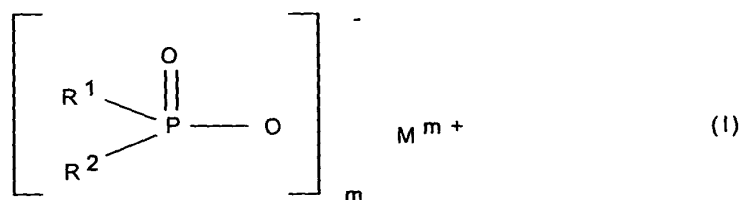


Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer ~~and is based on substances which, in the event of a fire, form a foam layer and form carbon, on film-forming binders, on blowing agents, and on conventional auxiliaries and additives, which comprises~~ comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of a phosphinic salt of the formula (I) and/or a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), a mixture of formula (I) and formula (II), a polymer of formula (I), a polymer of formula (II), and a mixture of polymers of formula (I) and formula (II) and/or their polymers,



where

R^1, R^2 are identical or different and are $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl, linear or branched and/or aryl;

R^3 is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$ -alkylene, linear or branched, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10}$ -arylene, -alkylarylene, or -arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K, and/or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4;

x is from 1 to 4.

2. (Original) The fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 1, wherein M is calcium, aluminum, or zinc.
3. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein R¹ and R² are identical or different and are C₁-C₆-alkyl, linear or branched, ~~and/or~~ phenyl.
4. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein R¹ and R² are identical or different and are methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl ~~and/or~~ phenyl.
5. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein R³ is methylene, ethylene, n-propylene, isopropylene, n-butylene, tert-butylene, n-pentylene, n-octylene, ~~or~~ n-dodecylene; phenylene, ~~or~~ naphthylene, ~~or~~ methylphenylene, ethylphenylene, tert-butylphenylene, methylnaphthylene, ethylnaphthylene, ~~or~~ tert-butyl naphthylene, ~~or~~ phenylmethylene, phenylethylene, phenylpropylene or phenylbutylene.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5, which comprises~~ comprising:
 - from 5 to 30 parts by weight of a film-forming binder,
 - from 10 to 50 parts by weight of a substance which forms a foam layer,
 - from 5 to 25 parts by weight of a substance which forms carbon,
 - from 5 to 25 parts by weight of a blowing agent, and
 - from 10 to 50 parts by weight of ~~conventional auxiliaries and additives~~ at least one auxiliary or additive, and
 - from 1 to 10 parts by weight of aluminium diethylphosphinate.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6, which comprises comprising:~~
from 10 to 25 parts by weight of a film-forming binder,
from 15 to 40 parts by weight of a substance which forms a foam layer,
from 7 to 15 parts by weight of a substance which forms carbon,
from 7 to 15 parts by weight of a blowing agent, and
from 20 to 40 parts by weight of ~~conventional auxiliaries and additives~~ at least one auxiliary or additive, and
from 2 to 5 parts by weight of aluminium diethylphosphinate.
8. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 6, wherein the film-forming ~~binders present comprise~~ binder is selected from the group consisting of:
homopolymers based on vinyl acetate,
copolymers based on vinyl acetate, ethylene, and vinyl chloride,
copolymers based on vinyl acetate and on the vinyl ester of a long-chain, branched carboxylic acid,
copolymers based on vinyl acetate and di-n-butyl malate,
copolymers based on vinyl acetate and esters of acrylic acid,
copolymers based on styrene and esters of acrylic acid, ~~and/or~~
copolymers based on esters of acrylic acid,
vinyltoluenel/acrylol copolymer,
styrene/acrylate polymers,
vinyl/acrylate copolymers, and
self-crosslinking polyurethane dispersions.
9. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 6, wherein the ~~foam-forming substances present~~ substance which forms a foam layer ~~comprise~~ is selected from

the group consisting of ammonium salts of phosphoric acids and/or polyphosphoric acids.

10. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 9, wherein the carbon-forming substances present comprise carbohydrates~~claim 6, wherein the substance which forms carbon is a carbohydrate.

11. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, as claimed in claim ~~7~~10, wherein the ~~carbohydrates used comprise~~carbohydrate is selected from the group consisting of pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, tripentaerythritol and/or polycondensates of pentaerythritol.

12. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 11, wherein the auxiliaries and additives present comprise~~claim 6 wherein the at least one auxiliary or additive is selected from the group consisting of glass fibers, mineral fibers, kaolin, talc, aluminum oxide, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, precipitated silicas, silicates and/or pulverulent celluloses.

13. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 12, wherein the blowing agents present comprise~~claim 6, wherein the blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of melamine, and/or guanidine, or else their salts, and/or dicyandiamides.

14. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 13, wherein the ~~melamine salts used comprise~~melamine salt is selected from the group consisting of melamine phosphate, melamine cyanurate, melamine borate, melamine silicate, and wherein the guanidine salt used ~~comprises~~is guanidine phosphate.

15. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer, as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 14, which also comprises claim 6,~~
further comprising melamine polyphosphate.

16. (New) An article comprising the fire protection coating which forms an insulating layer as claimed in claim 1.

17. (New) The article as claimed in claim 16, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of a steel article, ceiling, wall, cable, and pipe.

18. (New) An article comprising the fire-protection coating which forms an insulating layer as claimed in claim 6.

19. (New) The article as claimed in claim 18, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of a steel article, ceiling, wall, cable, and pipe.